

No 22.

On Amenorrhoea

by Robt S Mosely of Virg^a

papered March 13. 1816

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man of talent, for
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Amenorrhoea.

The subject of my thesis is by no means a new one, like many other disease to which the human body is subject, Amenorrhoea has been the object of research among men of talents, from the dawn of medical science to the present day; while such distinguished characters as appeared at different times, have devoted much attention to the investigation of this disease, it cannot be expected that I should here offer more than a series of quotations; nevertheless, I may without presumption hope to

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offer some few remarks which will not be deemed
wholly superfluous.

Amorruhea being a disease peculiar to
the female sex, on whom we are dependent for the
greater portion of our earthly happiness, renders it
doubtly interesting to the medical writer; as civilization
progresses and the sources of luxury become more
abundant, so in proportion will be the frequency
of disease; for we find among the antients, life
was protracted to seven, eight, and even nine hundred
years; from this we are led to conclude that diseases
of a malignant nature were scarcely known among
them, but as civilization advances disease not only becomes
more frequent, but assumes a more malignant form, which
has continued more or less to the present day.

That *amorrhoea* is a disease arising out of, or
at least aggravated by luxury and dissipated habits, will
I think be sufficiently evinced by turning our attention
for a moment to the savages that inhabit our own
country; here we find the female leading an active

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life, indulging in none of the luxuries of art, but their food consisting of nature's bounty, which wise providence sends them to such articles as shall satisfy the demands of nature, without having behind them such latent poison as results from the use of our wines, and other luxuries prepared by art. While then we are a country which amaranthine has been considered the most formidable; we, by their sagacity seeing the affectionate wife from the bosom of her husband, and consigning her to the horrors of an untimely grave; we should by unvaried exertions endeavour by the virtue of the healing art, to arrest the progress of disease, and restore to the embraces of the husband, and the caresses of their tender offspring, the object of adoration to the former, and a comfort to the latter.

Not having experience to guide, nor the advantages of age to assist me, I have instead of wandering in the speculative fields of imagination, confined my pursuits to the pursuits of well attested facts, that basis on which we should found our theories and direct our

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Medicine must have in all ages been prone of
speculative theories: this has not only produced disease
among themselves, but in many instances led the
Student from the pleasing paths of health, and involved
him in the mist of obscurity and clouds of ignorance.

Speculative theories therefore should be advanced, and treated
with extreme caution; nevertheless we find advocates for
theories which carry with them ^{nothing} truth or reason. I wish
you not to be undeceived, as wholly disapproving of theoretical
views, for they are indispensable in the present imperfect
state of our knowledge founded on physical facts; but
I hope the time is not far distant, when the necessity
for speculation shall cease, and when the healing art
shall triumph over every disease to which the human
species are at this time subject; nay, may we not with
confidence adopt the language of the immortal Plato
and say, that the time will arrive, when from the
perfection of our science we shall be enabled by the
virtue of the healing ^{art} to effect cures equally great with

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than which were effected by the Spirit through the instrumentality of a Supernatural agency.

In treating of Amenorrhoea, I design to make a few remarks on healthy menstruation - its most probable cause - the effect and changes in the female constitution which generally precede the first menstruation; after which, I shall proceed to speak of the various causes and treatment of the disease. First then of menstruation.

By menstruation, we are to understand a periodic discharge from the uterine portion of all healthy women, consisting of a fluid as will be hereafter shown differing in many respects from pure blood. This opinion is by no means universal, for we find even among Physicians of the present day, some who suppose the menstrual fluid to consist of pure blood discharged from the extremities of the uterine arteries.

Menstruation for the first time is generally preceded by a slight inflammation, such as pain in the loins, and

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inferior extremities accompanied with various hysterical
and nervous affections; but as the menses make their
appearance, these symptoms for the most part gradually
subside, while in some women they return with constant
or rather violent at every period of menstruation during life.

The quantity discharged at each monthly menstruation
depends in a great measure on the constitution and habits
of the woman: the average quantity, however, will be found
not to exceed four or six ounces; there is also considerable
difference in the time required for the completion of each
menstruation, and the space which elapses between each
menstrual period; with some women menstruation is effected
in 10 five hours, while others menstruate for many days;
from three to six days is however the most usual time
required for the completion of the process. A longer month
a lively nine days is generally the time which elapses
between each period of menstruation; this however, is
influenced by various influences on constitution, and a
variety of other causes.

At the approach of old age, the menses become

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regular, returning at periods intervals and in large
quantities; at length they scurries together.

It not unfrequently terminates in epine hæmorrhage,
from the uterus, more or less, destroying the patient
sometimes in a few hours: tumours which have remained
a long time rather are peculiarly exposed at this
time to terminate in true cancer, in some instances
however, the termination is much improved, more especially
in arterial tumours, even such as menstruation too copiously.

The time at which the uterus scurries has pretty been
considered the most critical period of a woman's life, as
she is at this time particularly liable to various diseases,
as Consumption, Dropsy &c. whether there are produced in
consequence of the rejection of a long continued mucus, or
the change effected in the uterus itself, I am not prepared
to say.

There have been different ideas subsisted respecting the
cause of menstruation, and the nature of the fluid discharged.
The ingenious Mr Hunter who laboriously experimented on the
Blood, is supposed to have been among the first who suggested the cau-

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that introduction was performed by a process similar to secretion, and the flow designed to supply in many of that part of same part. And before I saw the account the opinion was revolutionary: but the indefatigable labors of Professor Chapman who has thrown light on many important branches of natural science, interest me this subject more warmly, and has I think irresistibly proved that secret nature operates actively upon a secondary release of the uterus: thus he argues from the following and other facts.

1st That the uterus in its villous area vascular structure resembles a gland, and also in its structure being elastic and contractile.

2nd That like the secondary organ, there is apparently diffusion through it.

3rd That in common with other secretory involution is at first imperfectly performed, and is subject afterwards to labor and arrangement. In the beginning the discharge is scanty, then, turbid, and acrid, and more or less profuse, and irregular.

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intervals. In some of these particulars it is analogous to the Seminal secretion.

Is there when the uterus can suppress they cannot be retained by ordinary processes, nor the flow checked by stentility or any other means of suppression? Does it not then just unequivocally perform the duties of a secondary function?

The changes which in the female constitution pass on to their first menstruation, is eloquently described by Doctor Bowman in his *Sphere of Microscopy*, their complexion is improved, their countenance is more expressive and energetic. Their abilities are increased. Their imagination more collegial and agreeable. The tone of their voice becomes more harmonious. Their whole frame, but particularly their breasts are expanded and enlarged, and their mind is no longer engaged in childish pursuits and amusements. To this I would add, that the pelvis is enlarged and the uterus acquires its adult form. Hutchinson on anatomy, and the

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 tion of the symptoms, causes &c of each separately, which
 I reserve in a practical point of view as ~~early~~ and
 unimportant. I shall however, mention casually some of
 the most prominent symptoms which characterize that
 stage of disease commonly called Cholera. There are,
 in addition to more, great fatigue on the least exercise,
 pain in the back and inferior extremities, distention
 and acidity in the stomach, with many other symptoms
 of asphyxia. As the disease advances, the lips lose their
 colour, the eyes are inserted with a hard crust, the
 face assumes a yellow hue, and the whole body has
 a tympanic appearance, with an evident want of
 energy in the constitution. This stage of the disease
 has frequently been mistaken for jaundice, from which
 it may easily be distinguished by attending to the
 following particulars in progress, the urine is generally
 high coloured and deposits considerable sediment. The
 tunica cornea appears a dull yellow colour; whereas
 in cholera, the cornea is pale and ^{translucent} ~~opaque~~. The

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appears unaccountably while used &c.

The same may be said of suppression of the menses, and the sudden application of cold, setting on cold causes especially during the time of menstruation, when vapours of the uterus, such as fear, confusion, joy &c. *Suppression* is generally attended with the formation of an organized substance within the cavity of the uterus and within the menstrual vessels; and is also distinguished by the uterus, more especially those of the uterus. It further supposes Amenorrhoea to require more evacuation than any other which has been observed.

We have at length arrived to the most important part of the subject before us, namely, the application of medicines in the use of Amenorrhoea. This must relate to the uterine, & immediate the different opinions which exist among various writers respecting the cause and treatment of the disease; whether it is the

1. The first part of the paper is devoted to a discussion of the general principles of the theory of the structure of the human brain. It is shown that the brain is a complex organ, the structure of which is determined by the function it performs. The author discusses the various theories of the structure of the brain, and shows that the most correct one is the one which regards the brain as a complex organ, the structure of which is determined by the function it performs.

various kinds of their paper suff. me to retain my
 observations as sent to you; I shall therefore not
 myself in Henry's list words of treatment, which
 has proved most successful; & I shall have speaking
 to you that I will not meet with success in every
 instance; but I shall be for occasional disappoint-
 ments after examining his still new judgment, to the
 greatest possible advantage.

At the head of the number in the treatment of
 pneumonia, I am not certain to give the
 Polyphasic System; there is however some discrimination
 in the system of this powerful medicine
 since there is considerable activity in the system,
 pneumonia must be treated by the system
 as the public opinion ~~also~~ as the opinion of
 many physicians, is sometimes highly erroneous;
 after reducing the system to the proper point, the
 patient is an excellent man.

The Henry's new paper accumulation is exceedingly
 complete & is one of the most complete, but more especially



useful in these cases of Suppression depending on the
formation of a membrane within the cavity of the
uterus, in which case it will be the membrane serosa.

There is no medicine in use of which which acts more
specifically on any part of the human body, than the
Sergol acts on the uterus, for which reason it is common-
ly adapted to cases that degenerate into uterine ague,
to the expulsion of any foreign substance which may
exist within its cavity.

Esch. Haidemann is entitled to the honour of
first employing the polygala Sergol in amenorrhoea;
since which time its ~~virtue~~ has been fully established
by Professor Haidemann, and the numerous testimony
of many others; the experience of Professor Haidemann
maunders him to speak in the highest terms of this
remedy: he says the most efficacious mode of exhibiting
the medicine, is ⁱⁿ the form of a decoction, prepared by
mixing a pint of boiling water to an ounce of the
crushed root in a close vessel, and Simmering the
for slowly until the quantity is reduced two thirds,

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If this, for some way is taken in the bloody form
 view. When the medicine costs nausea which it is some
 times apt to do even in small quantities, some remedies
 should be used. At the time when the menstrual fluid
 is expelled, and till the discharge is actually increased,
 the quantity should be increased as far as the stomach
 will bear without causing vomiting: in the intervals
 of the menstrual period, the medicine should be laid
 aside for a week or two, as by its constant use the
 efficacy of the medicine is somewhat lost, and it becomes
 nauseous and disagreeable to the patient.

While the patient is under the influence of this medi-
 cine, the system should be well regulated by the use
 of appropriate remedies, that is to say, should the patient
 be labouring under acidity, wine, tonic, and a nourishing
 diet, should be given her: and on the contrary, when
 there is considerable indigestion, Purgatives and other
 cathartics must be resorted to. Dr. Ferri's Tonic is
 preferable, as it serves to move the primæ viæ more
 vigorously than it does to the inferior extremities.

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It is further observation of the effects of this measure
in the case of anasarca, I will state the particulars of
a case which was under my direction not long since,
early last spring I visited a smart girl aged nineteen
years, who had laboured under an obstinate anasarca of
nine months standing; she was much emaciated in consequence
of the length of time she was labouring under the disease,
and the improper treatment she had received from the
physicians attending her, who had mistaken the disease
for that of hypochondriac, of which there were several
symptoms.

On my being told I was asked whether she menstruated
and was virgin, as before stated, that the woman had
been dyspeptic for nine months, previous to which time
she had enjoyed almost unobscured health; this made
me much suspect that the symptoms of water in the
chest proceeded from the dyspeptic colic, and
was only symptomatic of that disease; under these con-
siderations I directed the patient warm, food, and a nourish-
ing diet with a view of increasing her strength, and

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improving system to the constitution; her treatment was
continued for several weeks in which time her general health
was so much improved as to justify the use of the Sanga.
I accordingly gave her three ounces of the medicine every
fourth day for five days; she now complained
of pain in her back and inferior abdominal region of the
stomach, these symptoms I considered as indicative of the
menstrual effort; the medicine was now increased to one
ounce every two days; this however was ineffectual.
The medicine was now discontinued for one day.

On the evening when I put her on the second
stage of treatment as in the first instance, with the
expectation of success, which she was unable to take
when I put her on the first stage of the treatment. On the 10th
I again resumed the use of the Sanga, and in three
days the menstrual effort was again made, and attended
with success. She has continued to menstruate regularly,
now free from all hysterical entirely disappeared, and
her health was in every respect completely established.

Scotia Henderson. 1st June 1840 to whom we

[illegible]

an matter for many useful, and important improvements
in the science of medicine, but more especially for her
accurate investigation of the medicinal properties of certain
Vegetables, has spoken in the highest terms of the British
Institution both in relation to suppression of the
menstrua. Whether this measure acts specifically on the
menstrua or not, I am unprepared to say; but of its
efficacy in amenorrhoea there can be no doubt. I have
witnessed its virtue in a variety of cases in the Phila-
delphia Hospital during my attendance as a Student
last Summer; to prove particularly in accounting the
particular I witnessed in that institution, I beg permission
while I relate the particulars of an interesting case
of a poor girl, aged twenty years whom I attended
in this city; she had laboured under a suppression of
the menses for near six months.

When I first saw this patient. She complained of an
acute pain in the right hypochondriac region, vertigo
and excessive debility; under the existing circumstances
the use of the lancet was refused, for which I substituted

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the eighty-seventh
the eighty-eighth
the eighty-ninth
the ninetieth
the ninety-first
the ninety-second
the ninety-third
the ninety-fourth
the ninety-fifth
the ninety-sixth
the ninety-seventh
the ninety-eighth
the ninety-ninth
the hundredth

a cloth directly over the rest of the pain, and gave her
 a gentle rubbidge. on my next visit which was the succeeding
 day I found the whole of the pain much relaxed.
 and on the succeeding evening I saw some fresh
 growth of the skin between it to give her some a
 ointment. She continued in this way without any
 great improvement being made in the ulcers, the health
 however in this respect was much improved. The
 medicine was now discontinued for three weeks, during
 which time she took moderate exercise and use of
 a generous diet with an occasional use of wine. The
 medicine was again resumed, and the case is now
 to go to the point of the operation is three days. The
 appearance of pain in the last part of the
 ulcers, some of the use can now appear usually over that
 organ, and in twenty four hours the menses began to
 flow, but with considerable pain. I advised her to make
 use of purgatives, and take a few doses of the medicine
 in a day or two before the next period of menstruation:
 this she did, and menstruated with considerable ease.

Various Sites

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... by the
... these cases of
... followed by
... degree, sequential
... possibility of Ann
... 18 months
... 18 months, but more

kinds are given
 the weather is
 up and down
 the way of land
 and sea, and
 it gives us a
 : when we are
 and it is the
 like any thing
 a the same, and
 against the other
 his organs, kinds
 and conversation

known by these gentlemen is to peculiarly explain
 the those cases of *transmission* which are manifested
 as produced by condensation of the *Respiratory* *System*. *These* *are* *the* *most*
 dignified somewhat from the subject, and enquire into the
 probability of *transmission* frequently appearing as a
 collection of crude feculent matter within the larger
 intestines, but more especially the *Colon*.

Females in general are of a delicate constitution, and
 their excursions for the most part *scarcely* *have* *either*
imp must necessarily be more frequent *than* *any*
 other class of society. The *abundant* *variation* *is* *periodical*,
 and very much under the influence of habit in consequence
 of false *advice* and peculiar situations, the regular collection
 of matter in *intestines* *from* *time* *to* *time*, unless *habitual*
exercise *is* *the* *necessary* *consequence*. The *regularity* *of* *the*
bowels *being* *largely* *a* *quantity* *of* *feculent* *matter* *is* *retained*
in *the* *intestines*, and other large intestines, about *proportion*
against *the* *abundant*, *various*, and *the* *low* *expansive*, *abundant*
these *organs*, *thence* *producing* *irregular* *action*, and *consequently*
transmission. That this is a conjecture founded on

present manner
 sometimes about
 seven or eight
 miles from
 the city, but
 they are now
 all gone, and
 the country is
 very fertile,
 and produces
 much wheat,
 corn, &c.
 The people
 are very poor,
 and live by
 agriculture.

Pleuritic action, every I think to infer from the
 symptoms which frequently prove a suppression of the
 menses. The lower lumen near a large catheter, and
 sometimes from the stomach, however, and frequently from
 about the hypogastrium region, and not infrequently a
 favourable form of the head evidently proceeding from
 the diseased state of the stomach and obstructions to
 action. Thus regulation is common, not, certain it is
 that cathartics are commonly successful in many cases
 of amenorrhoea, and I presume the menstruogenic action
 of the intestinal tubes to depend principally upon its
 property as a cathartic: here I may be asked, why other
 cathartics do not answer the same purpose? To this I
 would answer, that the virtue of a medicine depends
 in a great measure upon the relation which may exist
 between that medicine, and the part of the human system
 concerned, as in other cases, its specific operation on that part.

The specific operation of medicines is by no means a
 rare instance, yet its existence is by many doubted, and
 by others wholly anymia, it is not my intention here to

So far from being
no small stand-
ard.

Signale les
volumes successifs
de nos leçons.

of your duty,
John Adams
New York

the power
by the same
as in the
it is finally
by means

away to
 the house
 the room
 some of the

made a way of
 in the business
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 before with the
 together, was
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 of insurance, gave
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 one has covered
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 was a challenge
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 but if the right
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 ignoring the

emmenagogue, when in so common a degree; the experience of my friend Mr. Estlin of Virginia has afforded ample proof of the superior efficacy of this medicine in the treatment of amenorrhoea; he has performed me with a strict abstinence of all wine which he successfully treated with the veget. acid and may not prove altogether unavailing. I shall take the liberty, by his permission, of inserting ^{in this place} the ^{case} says "With" of ascertaining whether the veget. b. is proper of emmenagogue virtues. I selected a patient in the Philadelphia Almshouse who had laboured under an atonic amenorrhoea for upwards of nine months, and had used every mode of treatment that was suggested by several of the most celebrated practitioners.

After all the medicines which were used with a view of establishing the menstrual discharge had failed, and the case remained as before, I resolved to make trial of the veget.; accordingly at her whole A.M. I administered thirty grains of the veget. in decoction, repeating the same for three mornings in succession.

Set on the thin
dark commensal
in the
by grains each
during the day
above because
of the wet for
the precaution
and sinapism
about action
The being affected
At ten o'clock
just commencing
early grains
and in the
in the legions
the pains,
the menses
relate the
the flour each

Let me then say the manner with vomiting
which commenced forced me to abstain from its further
exhibition in this form; I then prepared three pessaries
in grains each and decided that she should take them
during the day in melops, but the first of these
likewise produced vomiting; I now suspended the use
of the rectal for two days, during which time I kept
the pessaries to have her feet bathed in warm water
and trophic application, with a view of exciting a
robust action which was then going on in the head;
this being effected I again had recourse to the rectal.

At ten o'clock I all of the sixth day gave the
first administration of the medicine. I gave her
twenty grains in saccharine solution with an anodyne,
and in the space of ten minutes it produced pain
in the region of the uterus compared by her to
after pains. These returned every four or six minutes
with increasing violence; at thirty minutes past eleven
which the discharge was white. The appearance of
the fluid discharge was perfectly natural and continuous

to flow for the
generally common
together the other
varieties
to be independent
elsewhere the other
again tapping on
The words as
as not profane
to get that of
to usually repeated
is true. We may
continue steadily
to stand, to be
Hawthorne since the
the day of our
that the patient
very consistently
stable purgation
conclusion with

1. It has, for three days, at the end of which time it gradually diminished, in gradually until it ceased all together. the whole being very natural.

Cathartics this class of medicines are certainly of the highest importance in the treatment of amenorrhoea, having elsewhere spoken of their means of use, I shall not again trespass on your patience by a recapitulation here.

The laws as before suggested are in a torpid state, and do not perform their functions properly, hence to attain the full effect of cathartics in this disease they must be frequently repeated and continued for a considerable length of time. We might be inclined to believe a priori, that extreme acidity would be the consequence of this mode of treatment, but from the increasing method of Doctor Hamilton and Professor Schapman whose experience with this class of medicines is by no means limited, we find that the patient's strength so far from being diminished is very considerably increased, while under the influence of drastic purgatives at least every three days. The Effect on menstruation with cathartics in the progression of three years

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action of the war
shows on the whole
Having camp
I prefer to speak
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has thirty, which
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to come from the
brought to 87-100
probability of death
to, upon any case

To the cause

of the former to right of the latter, is the purgative of all others which should be resorted to, not only from the irregular nature of the Alters, but also an account of its peculiar action on the Arteries.

Having completed the consideration of the general treatment I proceed to speak in a concise manner of local applications at the head of which, I shall place Blisters. They should be applied on the inner side of each thigh, and directly over the region of the arteries.

Synopsisms to the feet are sometimes found eminently useful, as by their irritation they have a tendency to counteract the too great determination of blood to the head thereby restoring an equilibrium of circulation and inducing healthy action. Pediluvium is sometimes used with the same view, the feet should be immersed in water heated to 90° or 100° of Fahrenheit and suffered to remain for thirty or forty minutes, after which they should be wiped dry and neatly wrapped in dry flannel.

In the convalescent state, that is, after the menstrual

discharge to
Dr. H. B. B.
reactions
these are
voluntarily
be seen
through
preparation
to the

discharge has been restored, some medicines, such as Peruvian
Bark, Rulya Febrile, mercurial ointment, and a well regulated
nutritious diet should be enjoined, as by the neglect of
these auxiliaries, the disease has returned with redoubled
violence, and the unfortunate sufferer after being tedious
~~long~~ ~~months~~ ~~or~~ ~~years~~ from the brink of the grave,
through the carelessness or neglect of her physician is
precipitately hurled from the stage of life, and consigned
to the horrible shades of death.

Sing.

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...the ... of the ...
...the ... of the ...
...the ... of the ...
...the ... of the ...
...the ... of the ...
...the ... of the ...
...the ... of the ...

[Faint signature or stamp]